

Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/851,958	TOMITA, ARATA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Steven D. Maki	1733	

All Participants:

(1) Steven D. Maki.

(2) Raja Saliba.

Date of Interview: 2 September 2004

Type of Interview:

☒ Telephonic
☐ Video Conference
☐ Personal (Copy given to: ☐ Applicant ☐ Applicant's representative)

Exhibit Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ Yes ☒ No
 If Yes, provide a brief description:

Part I.

Rejection(s) discussed:
 102/103

Claims discussed:
 7, 9-11, 15 and 18-22

Prior art documents discussed:
 art of record including Japan '410 and Smithers

Part II.

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW DESCRIBING THE GENERAL NATURE OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED:
 See Continuation Sheet

Part III.

☒ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview directly resulted in the allowance of the application. The examiner will provide a written summary of the substance of the interview in the Notice of Allowability.

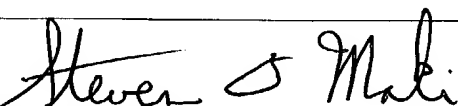
☐ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview did not result in resolution of all issues. A brief summary by the examiner appears in Part II above.

Status of Application: _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

Time: _____



(Examiner/SPE Signature)

 (Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature – if appropriate)

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was discussed:

On 8-30-04, examiner informed applicant's representative that the 102 and 103 rejections against claims 7, 9-10, 15 and 18-22 have been withdrawn in view of applicant's arguments filed 5-10-04. Examiner agreed that Japan '410 and Smithers fail to teach the claimed sipes in the blocks of both shoulders and thereby fail to teach the limitation of the claimed sipe being formed in a region at a trailing edge of "each of blocks at shoulder sides". Examiner added that there is no motivation to reverse the inclination of the sipes on one side of the equatorial plane of the tire in either of these references so that those sipes satisfy the "substantially parallel" limitation. Examiner noted that claim 11 continues to read on sipes in a single block row. Examiner proposed adding --on both sides of the equatorial plane of the tire-- so as to overcome both Japan '410 and Smithers. On 9-2-04, applicant's representative agreed to the changes in the examiner's amendment.